

SLOUGH SCHOOLS FORUM

SCHOOLS GROUP:

John Constable (Chair), Ben Bausor, Peter Collins, Gill Denham, Valerie Harffey, Emma Lister, Navroop Mehat, Angela Mellish, Eddie Neighbour, Carol Pearce, Jon Reekie, Jo Rockall, Jamie Rockman, Neil Sykes and Maggie Waller

LOCAL AUTHORITY

Sue Butcher, Neil Hoskinson, Neill Butler, Tony Madden, and Sabi Hothi

MEETING DETAILS:

**FRIDAY, 14TH JULY, 2023 AT 9.00 AM
VIRTUAL MEETING (VIA ZOOM)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87494593548?pwd=WXh1Q0s0SHJXbzA0em9GckJyRDR3Zz09>

**Meeting ID: 874 9459 3548
Passcode: 925121**

AGENDA

Item	Description	Presenter
1.	Apologies	<i>Chair</i>
2.	Notification of Any Other Business	<i>Chair</i>
3.	Declarations of Interest*	<i>Chair</i>
4.	Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 13.01.23 (including matters arising and action log)	<i>Chair</i> <i>(Pages 1 - 8)</i>
5.	Update on National/Local Funding Issues	<i>Neill Butler</i>
6.	DSG Management Plan & DfE 'Safety Valve' programme update	<i>Neill Butler</i> <i>Neil Hoskinson</i> <i>(Pages 9 - 16)</i>
7.	Primary-secondary funding ratio	<i>Chair</i> <i>(Pages 17 - 20)</i>
8.	Local School Improvement Fund	<i>Chair</i> <i>(Pages 21 - 22)</i>
9.	Schools Forum Membership update	<i>Chair</i> <i>(Pages 23 - 24)</i>
10.	Reappointment of Chair for 2023/24	<i>Chair</i>
11.	2022/23 Forward Agenda Plan	<i>Chair</i> <i>(Pages 25 - 26)</i>
12.	Key Decisions Log	<i>Chair</i> <i>(Pages 27 - 30)</i>
13.	Any Other Business (notified at start of meeting)	<i>Chair</i>

*** Declarations of Interest**

The Chair will ask Members to confirm whether they have any declarable interests in relation to any item on the agenda. All Members who believe they may have such an interest must declare it and may only: (a) remain in the meeting while that matter is discussed at the discretion of the Chair, and (b) speak on the matter by invitation. Examples of declarable interests include: where the outcome of a discussion may provide a personal advantage or avoid disadvantage (pecuniary or non-pecuniary), or where the focus of an agenda item and the likely impact of any outcome is wholly or mainly on a school with which the Member is associated.

Slough Schools Forum – Minutes of Meeting held on 13th January 2023

DRAFT MINUTES

- Present:** Ben Bausor, Always Growing Ltd
 John Constable, Langley Grammar School (Chair)
 Gill Denham, Marish Primary School
 Valerie Harffey, Ryvers School
 Emma Lister, Chalvey Early Years Centre
 Navroop Mehat, Wexham Court Primary School
 Angela Mellish, St Bernard’s Catholic Grammar School
 Eddie Neighbour, Upton Court Grammar School
 Jon Reekie, Phoenix Infants School
 Jo Rockall, Herschel Grammar School
 Jamie Rockman, Haybrook College
 Neil Sykes, Arbour Vale School
 Maggie Waller, Holy Family Primary School
- Officers:** Neill Butler, Strategic Finance Manager, People (Children)
 Johnny Kyriacou, Associate Director, Education & Inclusion
 Tony Madden, Development Manager, Place Strategy
 Steve Muldoon, Interim Head of Financial Management
- Observer** Councillor Christine Hulme, Cabinet member
 (Children’s Services, Lifelong Learning & Skills)
- Apologies:** Peter Collins, Slough & Eton Church of England Business and Enterprise College
 Andrew Fraser, Interim DCS and CEO Slough Children First
 Carol Pearce, Penn Wood Primary School

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and explained that there was no clerk available for this meeting. Instead, the meeting would be recorded and transcribed afterwards.

932	Notification of any other business The Chair notified the meeting of one short AOB item.
933	Declarations of Interest None
934	Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 10 November 2022, including matters arising and action log These were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. The Chair recorded his thanks to Nick Pontone from SBC Democratic Services for support with the distribution of the agenda, and for updating the online record of Forum meetings. Jamie Rockman (JR) referred to the key action log and minutes 910 and 924 and asked whether the request for an impact assessment on the DSG management plan had been actioned yet. Steve Muldoon (SM) confirmed he hasn’t seen one but will chase and ensure it gets circulated. Maggie Waller (MW) asked if there had been any update from the DfE in relation to the retrospective Central School Services Block protection. This question was held over and dealt with later in the meeting under minute 940.

The Chair reminded Forum members of the action log at the end of the minutes, which would be updated outside this meeting:

Minute	Action	Responsibility
906	<i>Carry forward to next meeting</i>	Chair
907	<i>Completed</i>	N/A
909, 910	<i>Carry forward to next meeting</i>	Johnny Kyriacou
911	<i>To be discussed outside meeting</i>	Chair/Johnny Kyriacou
912	<i>Complete</i>	N/A
913	<i>Carry forward to next meeting</i>	Chair
915, 916	<i>Complete</i>	N/A
917	<i>Carry forward to next meeting</i>	Neill Butler
924	<i>Complete</i>	N/A
926	<i>Ongoing</i>	Chair

935 Schools Forum Membership Update

The Chair apologised that no further progress had been made in regard to filling the two current vacancies on Forum for Academy members. This would be progressed before the next Forum meeting in March.

936 Update on National / Local Funding Issues

NB confirmed that there were no specific updates to report, and noted that the main issues facing schools were going to be the support for the cost of energy beyond April 29023, and the pressure caused by the Government commitment to raise the starting salary for teachers' to £30,000 by the end of the current Parliament.

The Chair noted that that schools should have received notification of an energy grant for capital projects to put energy saving measures in place.

937 Resource Provision and AP Commissioning

Johnny Kyriacou (JK) introduced this item as a straightforward paper to update Forum on the number of places commissioned in academies by the Local Authority. This provides transparency and complements the LA's overall place planning strategy which is due to be presented to cabinet in February.

NB drew attention to the appendix showing the commissioned places for September 2023 together with any changes from the current year. NB confirmed these places have been agreed with the individual schools.

JR asked why some of the resource bases, eg Wexham and Priory were not listed. NB advised that the report only concerns places commissioned in academies, and not maintained schools. This is because LA has to notify the DfE directly because of the different funding arrangements for academies. NB commented that in the future it would be helpful for Forum to see the overall Slough picture including maintained schools as well as Academy-based resource provision.

JR again emphasised the importance of an impact assessment; there were serious concerns about cutting AP or resource provision places without an impact assessment at a time when schools need support and help, for example which Haybrook would normally provide. JK advised that there were ongoing conversations between the LA and Haybrook and that he would also check whether a formal impact assessment has been completed.

Forum members **noted** the report.

938 Growth Fund – Confirmation of 2023/24 top slice

Tony Madden (TM) introduced this item, confirming that the report is brought annually at this time of year, to clarify the conditions that would apply for distribution of the growth fund in the following year, and to confirm DSG top slice for 2023/24.

TM confirmed that the Growth Fund could be used to:

- support growth in pre-16 numbers
- support additional classes
- meet infant class size regulation
- meet the cost of new schools.

TM confirmed that the funding rate was based on AWPU, with the figure used at secondary being an average of KS3 and KS4 rates.

Bulge classes have been funded in the past. If a bulge class is opened, the Growth Fund funds 30 places in full for all schools up until March of that year and for academies for the remainder of the academic year because of the difference between the financial years for maintained and academy schools. For an academy Forum has also agreed funding in the second year of the bulge class, to account for the long lag in funding for any pupil who joins a school after the October census. The LA has not opened any bulge classes for some years now but the principle and policy will remain in place because of the potential pressure in some primary year groups in certain areas of the town.

TM asked Forum members to note that there were currently only two permanent expansions in progress – both in secondary at Wexham and Westgate Schools. In 2023/24 this reduces to Wexham only, and in 2024/25 there will be no permanent expansions in progress. However, Growth Fund will still be needed to account for bulges, larger classes, etc. Larger classes are funded where the LA asks schools to do this, eg by going over 30 at key stage 2 or asking secondary schools to take over PAN. If this is agreed in advance, the extra places are funded on a termly basis. The advantage of this is that with a bulge class, 30 places are funded in one area of the town, whereas with the larger classes policy, smaller numbers of additional places can be created in the right areas of the town according to need. Overall, this is likely to require less Growth Fund support.

TM explained the recommended top slice for 2023/24. The permanent expansions require £188k and a contingency sum of £177k is proposed. TM noted that the way the LA presents Growth Fund information is under review and a simpler presentation will be adopted when the end of year outturn is presented in May. The top slice for 2022/23 was £950k; the actual expenditure has been £675k, including £150k contingency. The amount required in 2023/4 is £565k, of which £177k is a contingency sum; this was broadly in line with the Schools Block modelling underpinning the Forum discussion in November 2022.

NB noted that at the time of the November meeting, the DfE had not confirmed the DSG funding for growth. The final DSG settlement has allocated £900k. The LA believes that only £565k will be required; the surplus becomes additional headroom for allocation.

MW commented that it was good that less funding was needed, and endorsed the notion of keeping the reporting simple while ensuring that the funding was not lost, and that Forum retained a way of checking on the fairness of how funding was distributed.

Navroop Mehat (NM) asked if it is possible to get a list of schools who have agreed to go above 30 in key stage 2? NM also noted that there seems to be some confusion about this policy in admissions. NM gave an example where a child is taken into a school mid-year eg as SEND or CLA; although not part of an agreed strategic conversation with the LA, and hence without Growth Fund support, this triggers discussions with admissions and potentially leads to pressure to take more children without funding. TM confirmed that this issue should be taken up with Sabi Hothi.

	<p>In response to the Chair, TM reconfirmed that the Growth Fund would be used where going over 30 in a class is a planned strategic request by the local authority to deal with a bulge in a particular area, where the best way to deal with that is to allocate those children as a small group to one or more different schools, taking them over 30 in that year group. The alternative – to create a bulge class - might not be appropriate because of the geographical distribution of the pupils, or there might be a significant number of them, but not enough to justify a whole class.</p> <p>The Chair thanked TM and NB for their work on this item, and confirmed that Forum noted the proposed Growth Fund top slice for 2023/24.</p>
939	<p>DSG Management Plan and DfE “Safety Valve” Programme update</p> <p>The Chair reminded Forum members that this was a standing item for each Forum meeting.</p> <p>JK advised Forum members that the update on the Safety Valve programme is very positive. The LA is about to submit documentation ahead of the 4th February deadline. DfE have been supportive and provided positive feedback in discussions; JK stated that DfE believes Slough is one of the best LAs in the country for its approach to the DSG Management Plan and have recommended it to other authorities involved in or applying for the programme.</p> <p>The Chair commented that it was likely that the DfE would praise a management plan which does what they expect it to do and points to a significant cost reduction, but that school leaders – especially those working in alternative provision - nevertheless had concerns about the impact on services for young people. The Chair asked to what extent the LA was confident that the DfE recognised the potential impact of those cost reductions.</p> <p>JK responded by noting that that the DfE advisors require credible plans and an approach which will be sustainable. Alternative provision is one element of the wider DSG management plan, but school leaders, and in particular JR, have raised concerns. JK advised that aspects of the management plan are based on benchmarking and looking at other local authorities, and comparing with the historic issues in Slough. The LA has arrived at the figure for AP commissioned places by what it believes to be a more balanced approach, and was being transparent about that</p> <p>JR commented that this was not just an issue about AP, but needed to be seen in the context of SEND in general. Haybrook is now looking at a deficit budget position which is going to stop it providing some services. The concern is while the LA has done very well in reducing the in-year spend down from £4.7 to £2.2 million, this is at the expense of putting Haybrook into a £400k deficit position which means that it is not going to be able to meet the full needs of young people. JR questioned whether this is absolutely right thing that we should be doing for our young people in order to get on the safety valve program.</p> <p>JK confirmed there was an ongoing dialogue in various forums, including the DSG Transformation Board of which JR was a member. JK further confirmed the need to ensure that this remains a standing item on the Forum agenda. The Chair agreed and advised that as a statutory meeting with minutes which are in the public domain, the role of the Forum here is to ask questions, and ensure that comments and concerns are recorded.</p> <p>MW commented that while we understood the need to bring the DSG back into a more balanced position, and applauded the hard work so far to achieve this, she doubted whether DfE was really aware of the impact of the measures being presented. She urged for the impact assessment to be robust and shared with Forum and the DfE. JK confirmed that the DfE are aware of everything that the LA is doing, and are aware of disagreements. School leaders have had an opportunity to feed in to the plan through various meetings and forums. However, we need to recognise that in some areas there will be disagreements and there may be an impact.</p>

	<p>Valerie Harffey referred to an article in Schools Week about local authorities on the safety valve programme, which suggested saying that due to circumstances beyond their control – eg salary increases, inflation etc. – they had been unable to meet the terms of the programme and had funding taken away. JK responded that he had not seen this but was not aware of any concerns about the programme being expressed by other local authorities.</p> <p>The Chair thanked JK for his comments.</p>
<p>940</p>	<p>DSG 2023/2024 – Confirmation of DSG Settlement</p> <p>NB presented the updated DSG settlement for 2023/24, based on pupil numbers from the October census.</p> <p>NB confirmed that in addition to the numbers-based adjustment to Schools Block, an additional funding allocation of nearly £5.5m would be going into maintained schools and academies, distributed as the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant. This would bring the overall funding increase over the current year 2022-23 to around 5.35%.</p> <p>NB drew Forum members’ attention to the modelling in the appendix to the paper which set out the funding and the proposed allocation within the Schools Block. After taking account of the Growth Fund top slice and the requirement to move the mobility factor closer to the NFF rate, the estimated headroom is just over £800k. The LA’s proposal, in line with the Forum discussion in November 2022, is to distribute this increase AWBU (base funding) by between 1.8 and 1.9%. To actually allocate that money next year into mainstream schools and academies.</p> <p>NB confirmed a significant increase of 7.4%, in the Early Years block, which is related mainly to an increase in the hourly rate for 2 year olds, and also increased funding through the Maintained Nursery School supplementary. This recognises that the different cost pressures within the early years block. NB further confirmed an increase in the central services block of 5.6%, and in the high needs block of 9.7%.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Neil and reminded Forum members that there were two things for Forum to agree; firstly to approve the provisional decision from November 2022 for a 0.5% transfer from School's Block to the CSSB and the HNB, and secondly to recommend the overall budget for the DSG. NB confirmed that the November decision to distribute any headroom via AWPU did not need reconfirmation as this was a decision on a principle independent of the amount of headroom which had been supported by the consultation with schools.</p> <p>MW raised her point from earlier in the meeting about the possibility of DrE retrospective Central School Services Block protection. NB confirmed he was still looking in to the apparent historical underfunding issue with the CSSB. NB noted that because the overall historical funding level reflected in the CSSB is relatively low, Slough is not seeing the reduction in the block that some other local authorities are. There appears to be some funding through that block that is incorrect and this will be reviewed before coming back to Forum in March as part of an update on the non-schools block budgets for 2023-24.</p> <p>NB also advised that the Early Years block proposals are going out to consultation with providers, following a meeting of the Early Years Task group this afternoon. The outcome of that consultation will be brought back to Schools Forum, most likely as an email exchange due to timing issues.</p> <p>JR asked how the increase in the High Needs Block funding will be distributed across special schools, and referred to DfE documentation indicating a 3-5% increase in top-up banding funding. NB advised that the guidance is quite clear and that the AP and special schools needed to be funded by an additional 3.8%. which will be included in budgets.</p>

	<p>The Chair noted that the 5-16 task Group members had discussed the final DSG settlement with NB last week but had no further comments to make.</p> <p>In relation to the 2023/24 DSG settlement, Forum members then</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) confirmed the 0.5% transfer from Schools Block to the CSSB and HNB as provisionally agreed at the November 2022 meeting. b) endorsed the local authority's proposals for the overall 2023/24 DSG allocation c) noted the local authority's commitment to redistribute the headroom in the Schools Block through AWPU.
941	<p>Task Group update</p> <p>The Chair noted that the 5-16 Task Group had met in the previous week, and the Early Years Task Group would be meeting that afternoon, as noted in Minute 940.</p>
942	<p>Academies update</p> <p>JK confirmed there were no updates</p>
943	<p>2022/23 Forward Plan agenda</p> <p>The Chair drew attention to the forward agenda plan, noting that substantive items in March would include consideration of the non-schools block budgets for 2023/24 and the Q3 DSG monitoring report. The Chair also confirmed that the intention was still to hold meetings in both May and July, but this would be confirmed in March.</p>
944	<p>Key Decisions log</p> <p>The Chair confirmed that this had been updated following the previous meeting.</p>
945	<p>Any Other Business (notified at start of meeting)</p> <p>The Chair noted that this would be JK's last Schools Forum following his appointment as Assistant Director for Education with Warwickshire County Council. He thanked JK for his contributions to Forum over the last few years, noting that much time had been spent 'riding the storm' and taking a significant amount of difficult questioning and challenge at Forum meetings. On behalf of Forum members, the Chair thanked JK for his openness and transparency in discussions both in Forum meetings and in discussions outside, and wished him well for the future.</p> <p>JK responded, referring to the significant strength of partnership work between the LA and school leaders in Slough and his gratitude for the experience of working in Slough alongside dedicated professionals.</p>

Key action log – updated 13 January 2023

Minute	Action	Responsibility
906	a) Nominations to be sought for primary and secondary academy representatives 10/11/22 – carried forward 13/01/23 – carried forward	Chair
909	a) LA to report back on the impact of underspend in relation to post 16 learners with SEND. 10/11/22 – carried forward 13/01/23 – carried forward	Johnny Kyriacou
910 934 937	a) Full DSG Management Plan to be made available to Forum members following agreement with the DfE. b) LA to produce quality impact assessment reports covering the areas of saving within the High Needs provision. 10/11/22 – carried forward 13/01/23 – carried forward	Steve Muldoon Steve Muldoon
911	a) LA to clarify position in relation to funding for students with SEND placed at the College through fair access. 10/11/22 – carried forward 13/01/22 – JC and JK to discuss outside meeting	Johnny Kyriacou
913	a) Clarification of the remit, terms of reference and membership of 5-16, EY and HNB task groups. 10/11/22 – carried forward 13/01/23 – carried forward	Chair
917	a) Secure a permanent clerk to the Forum 10/11/22 – carried forward 13/01/23 – carried forward	Steve Muldoon/ Neill Butler
924	a) JK agreed to raise issues of how to communicate the progress on the DSG management plan and safety valve programme with DfE and in other related meetings	Johnny Kyriacou
926	a) JC, JK and NB to discuss format of CSSB report for March Forum meeting, to include some assessment of service effectiveness. 13/01/23 – ongoing	Chair
938	a) LA to review the presentation of Growth Fund budget and allocation for Forum meeting in May 2023.	Neill Butler Tony Madden
940	a) LA to investigate historic underfunding of CSSB and possibility of retrospective adjustment/protection from DfE, and report back to Forum with update in March 2023.	Neill Butler

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Is your LA still on track to meet the deficit control or reduction targets as set out in the agreement?

Provisional 2022-23 outturn is a £0.097 million overspend.

This is an improvement on the projected outturn of £1.638 million at period 9 for 2022-23. This is reflected by the work officers have been undertaking to turn the deficit around since January 2021.

Period 2 forecast 2023-24

Overall, the 2023-24 DSG is forecasting an underspend of £0.473 which is fully attributable to an underspend on the growth fund within the Schools Block DSG.

The Early Years Block, High Needs Block and Central Schools Services Block are all currently predicted to be on budget. But with the caveat that the P2 Budget Management report is very early in the financial year and it normally takes at least 3 months of financial ledger information to get a clear picture of predicted outturn. The main reason for this is that it can take a few months for accruals to be cleared in the new financial year.

It should be noted that neither the provisional forecast outturn for 2022-23 nor the period 2 budget management report have been presented to members yet so they are not yet in the public domain.

What progress has been made towards implementing the conditions set in the agreement, and are the timelines set in detailed proposals still on track?

- The main conditions within the Safety Valve have been tested against the latest numbers of Education Health and Care Needs Assessments (EHCNA), Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans and other live data trends.
- Work is nearly complete to cleanse and update the real-time pupil level granular data.
- The Strategic Inclusion Partnership Board agreed a new Live Cases dashboard that has now been introduced that allows more informed decision making and triaging of cases. The new leadership team have already used the dashboard to review of all current cases to identify possible quick resolutions.
- A new Strategic Inclusion Partnership Board Special Education and Disabilities (SEND) 0-25 data dashboard allows ongoing monitoring and interrogation of the data aligned to the Written Statement of Action and the updated Ofsted/CQC Inspection Framework. This then links back to the SEND team and their Live Cases dashboard. The Partnership Board dashboard will also be aligned with the Frimley ICB Data Dashboard.

- The key conditions within the Safety Valve have been shared with all headteachers in Slough and they are directly involved in ongoing impact assessments.
- Joint commissioning with The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Bracknell Forest is being developed and the initial focus has been on the Integrated Therapies project with Frimley ICB.
- Each education setting will have a dedicated link officer to ensure better communication with the SEND service.
- The Place Planning Board has been refreshed and will now focus on SEND demand, sufficiency and capital projects to increase statutory places in Specialist Resource Provision and Designated Units while a wider delivery plan is being developed with a number of settings.

What are the current risks to implementation, and how are these being mitigated?

- In line with the current SEND 0-25 national data trends, we are seeing a substantial increase in requests for EHCNAs. Other pressures on the service include a rising number of exclusions, increased pressure on alternative provision places, together with an increase in in-year admissions to schools which increasingly often involve pupils with complex needs. Work is being undertaken to increase the ordinary available provision, reasonable adjustments and targeted interventions that are available in Slough schools to meet the needs of more young people with SEND in the mainstream sector. A key focus of support and challenge visits in the Autumn will be the SEND inclusion support provided across our maintained school sector.
- Since April 2023, the new Head of SEND and her new team have identified a large number of EHCNA requests that had been previously agreed for assessment but had been delayed. This was mainly due to the shortage of available Education Psychology (EP) time to provide the advice necessary to move forward with the EHC plan process. The long-term solution to this will be to recruit a permanent team of in-house EPs but, in the meantime, we have commissioned an external service to provide all the EP advice required for the backlog of cases and have identified additional locum EP capacity.
- The current iteration of the Safety Valve does not reflect the backlog cases that were in the EHC plan assessment pipeline pre April 2023. The anticipated cost impact is not reflected in the latest financial outturns for the High Needs Block. A new Safety Valve Working Party is reviewing the conditions set in the current agreement to ensure that the actual figures are reflected and that additional conditions are identified to ensure that the budget still balances for 2025/26.

Are there any risks to the timing of capital projects that may impact on the delivery of your agreement, such as the opening of a free school? If so, please explain the reasons and impacts clearly.

- We do not have any new schools planned but this in itself is a risk in that we will not have the additional capacity in the future that a new free school would bring. We are currently working with our special schools, Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and schools where there is specialist resource provision to review current capacity. Capital is available to support this process and projects have already been prioritised for a special school, a post-16 setting and the PRU. We are also in conversation with established providers locally that are looking to provide an education offer in Slough in the future.

Have there been any unforeseen difficulties or setbacks in implementing the agreement?

- As above, the increase in pressure on the service and shortage of EP capacity has created a backlog of cases that are being profiled into the Safety Valve.
- The increase in the number of exclusions in secondary schools, and pressure for immediate alternative provision places in the second half of the 2022/23 academic year has required additional places to be secured in the PRU for 6th day provision. A new Preventing Exclusions policy is being developed and a review of PRU funding will take this into account within the Safety Valve agreement.

Details of any substantial changes to the senior staff at the LA responsible for implementing the agreement

- The Strategic Inclusion Partnership Board is in place with agreed terms of reference ensuring partnership working with health and social care. They have drafted a Self-Evaluation Framework to inform the strategic objectives and priorities including a data dashboard and a SEND Service Operational KPI Tracker.
- Neill Butler, the Strategic Finance Manager for Childrens Services, is still supporting the Safety Valve service and continues to work closely with the SEND services and the Strategic Inclusion Partnership Board with Budget Management Reporting.
- Sue Butcher, DCS, took up her post in January 2023 and Neil Hoskinson, AD for Education and Inclusion joined Slough in March the same year. Following this, a new SEND team structure has been implemented including a new Head of SEND, new managers and other key personnel including a Transformation and

Commissioning consultant, a Resolutions Officer together with new casework SEND officers. A Preparation for Adulthood post is being created. All case officers will undertake a skills audit to identify CPD needs. Training on the Code of Practice took place in April with a further session in June. CAMHs training took place in May.

- The SEND Commissioner that was involved in drawing up the Safety Valve moved on to a different local authority in March 2023 and has been replaced by the Transformation and Commissioning Consultant. This will allow commissioning decisions moving forward to be informed by the SEND 0-25 data, anticipating the future SEND cohort needs and best practice nationally.

Special Educational Needs Position Statement – June 2023

Leadership

We need to ensure that progress against the weaknesses identified in the local area inspection is increased rapidly and that partnership working becomes embedded. There has been a lot of action since the February monitoring visit but the impact is only just starting to appear.

- Written Statement of Action has been reviewed and new project reporting is in place to ensure that progress is accurately reflected and priorities are clearer.
- Strategic Inclusion Partnership Board is in place with agreed terms of reference and ensuring partnership working with health and social care.
- Self-Evaluation Framework drafted to inform the strategic objectives and priorities including a data dashboard and a SEND Service Operational KPI Tracker.
- Currently reviewing the audit and quality assurance framework to ensure that it is better aligned to wider childrens' service processes.
- Integrated Therapies project set up to review the current contract arrangements.
- SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2021-2024 being developed with partners alongside a School Effectiveness Strategy agreed with a focus on inclusive practice.
- A new Workforce Development Plan is being shared with partners and stakeholders.
- A SEND update will now be included at all Getting to Good meetings.
- Slough Schools Placing Strategy went to Cabinet in April and the Slough Multi-Agency Protocol has been agreed for the transition from Children to Adults.
- Regular Risks workshops now take place before every Partnership Board meeting.

The SEND Service

Since the Autumn of 2022, not enough EHC plans have been completed and rapid actions are needed to reverse this trend.

- An Head of SEND, two experienced managers, an Resolutions Officer and a transformation consultant have been recruited. Discussions about a Preparation for Adulthood officer.
- New teams have been created for assessments, annual reviews and a rapid response team.
- The new leadership team have already updated SEND processes and completed a review of all current cases to identify possible quick resolutions.
- A new live cases dashboard will improve decision making, communication and reporting.
- Each education setting will have a dedicated link officer to improve communication.
- Additional locum EPs have been sourced and discussions are taking place with two external companies to provide further capacity while a new recruitment and retention strategy is being devised to establish a permanent team to meet ongoing demand.
- A draft SEND handbook is being shared containing information about the Code of Practice and the LA systems for implementation including panel processes.
- All case officers will undertake a skills audit to identify CPD needs. Training on the Code of Practice took place in April with a further session in June. CAMHs training took place in May.
- A Capita Working Party will explore key features and future options such as the portal.

Engagement with Schools

- SEND Information Sharing sessions will keep settings updated of transformation actions and to ensure education partners are involved.
- A key focus of support and challenge visits in the Autumn will be the SEND support provided including the graduated offer, ordinarily available provision and interventions.
- Discussions have begun to plan an inclusion conference to share the best practice identified in the Autumn visits and from further afield.
- Primary and Secondary headteacher working groups will consider service improvements and inform a series of development and transformation sessions.
- Participation training with the local workforce in February considered best inclusive practices and a Neurodiversity Network has been launched.
- The Place Planning Board has been refreshed and will now focus on SEND sufficiency and capital projects to increase places in special and resource provision while a wider delivery plan is being developed with a number of settings.

Co-Production and Family Engagement

There is an established system of gathering the views of families through the PCF via online / paper surveys, meetings and planned events but this is not the case for young people.

- Co-production sessions / Special Voices events (including online and paper surveys) have gathered stakeholder views on inclusive practice and preparation for adulthood approaches.
- A Working Together Charter has been shared with the Partnership Board and all partners. This was informed by a young people's survey sent to all our schools.
- Communication Service standards will be included in the draft handbook.
- A Kids co-production event took place and a Youth Parliament event. Further events planned include Breakaway, Gems, CLA pupils, care leavers, short breaks users.
- Participation sessions have taken place, a SEND participation officer recruited and a Coproduction Charter agreed.

Data, Information Gathering and SEND Place Planning

The new data dashboard will embed change and enhance sub-sets of management information to measure the impact of changes. All internal data is being reviewed to ensure accuracy.

- The dashboard will include real data from an operational KPI tracker, to ensure officers are responding to children's and family's needs and tracking their performance.
- The dashboard has been mapped against Green Paper requirements to ensure that it is likely to remain relevant and that insights are in line with government priorities.
- The SEND2 return will populate the dashboard and provide insights into the EHCP cohort.
- The dashboard will be aligned with the Frimley ICS Data Dashboard to help support partnership working and the health dashboard will include Slough only data.
- A draft live cases dashboard will help triage the SEND process and identify barriers and blockages in the system to support good decision making.
- The next stage of data development is to ensure that the views of young people with SEND and their families influence local policy, service design and the ongoing review of services.
- A full review of SEND places is being carried out alongside trends in the EHC plan cohort.

Partnership Work with Social Care

Initial conversations have taken place to align the EHC plan audit and quality assurance processes into the wider childrens' services processes.

- Slough Council and Slough Childrens First have also initiated a working group to develop a joint participation strategy.
- Work is ongoing to ensure that SEND services work collaboratively with our social care partners to ensure a coordinated single plan approach to young people.
- A working party has been established to develop new multi-agency processes involving social work, early help, the Virtual School, health and other partners.
- An escalation policy has also been agreed with an agreed role for Virtual School staff where necessary including attendance at SEND panels.
- Staff from the Children with Disabilities team and an appropriately trained Virtual School representative will attend the SEND triage and panel meetings.
- Members of the SEND team are also being given read only access to Liquid Logica (social care ICS), to enable officers to access information to inform the SEND assessment process.

Health Support

The Frimley ICS SEND board has been launched which will oversee the progress on the Integrated Therapies Project and the Written Statement of Action.

- Commissioning work is ongoing with the other East Berkshire local authorities to agree a new contract for integrated therapies.
- Another workstream is considering the impact of therapies provided in our special school via termly check in meetings and drop-in clinics.
- Frimley ICT have maintained the reduction in the wait times in OT triage to a longest wait of no greater than four weeks.
- Although the delay in SALT assessments is still far too high, it is reducing and the Communications Passport is having a positive impact.
- A Special Voices workshop with a focus on CAMHS has been scheduled to better understand parent/carer concerns about support for social and emotional mental health.
- A contract has been agreed for a dysphagia service for mainstream schools.

The Local Offer

- Funding and procurement for a redesign for the Local Offer redesign has been agreed and a project officer is in place.
- The first iteration of the new website has been designed and is being consulted on with young people with SEND and their families as well as with partners.
- As well as improving the look of the website, functionality, accessibility and useability will be improved by the new framework.
- SENDIASS and Special Voices will feature prominently on the new Local Offer home page.

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2nd February 2022

Dear John

I write on behalf of the Slough Primary Head's Association (SPHA) as their Chair, to ask that at your next Schools Forum meeting the group revisits the decision to set the primary to secondary funding ratio for Slough at 1:13598 (primary/secondary).

I take my data from the following data set; [Schools block funding formulae 2021 to 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/schools-block-funding-formulae-2021-to-2022) but accept it might need updating as this refers to funding for 2021/22.

Within it, you will note that by averaging the 151 LAs, Slough ranks 136th. To clarify, that means there are only 15 authorities across the whole country where primary schools receive less.

I have only been a Headteacher in Slough for a few years so am unaware when this ratio was last discussed and by which criteria the decision was judged. As a previous Chair of Bucks School Forum, I know we revisited the formula regularly to listen to the various phases views and needs.

If Slough were to decide to change simply to the national average within the data set, this would create a ratio of 1:12974. However, in light of covid and the particular needs of the youngest pupils, as well documented by government research, there is a strong case to follow the example of three of our local neighbours (one of which is a selective authority, in case that was seen to make a difference):

Buckinghamshire: 1:112683
RBWM: 1:12916
Wokingham: 1:12946

I am fully aware that this can be seen as robbing Peter to pay Paul – we are all schools and the overall pot of money remains too small. However, early intervention is accepted as the most effective and for many years it would seem the balance has leaned the other way.

If I have missed something or there is a significant counter argument, I would be very happy to engage in discussions. If not, I would hope that the Schools Forum unanimously agree to review and revise the ratios with immediate effect.

Yours sincerely

Pete Rowe
Chair of SPHA
Executive Headteacher
Ryvers School

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Slough Schools Forum

Discussion item at Forum meeting on 14 July 2023

Agenda item 7

Primary/secondary Funding Ratio

1. Background

The Chair of the Slough Primary Head's Association wrote to the Chair of Schools Forum in February 2023 raising the question of the primary/secondary funding ratio. The letter showed how the ratio for Slough differs from that of other nearby local authorities, and requests Forum to reconsider the ratio at its next meeting.

Although the letter was received in February 2023, there has not been a Forum meeting since then at which to discuss and address it.

2. Key points raised by SPHA

The SPHA argument is based on analysis of the 2021-22 financial year, with data obtained from the online dataset [Schools block funding formulae 2021 to 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/datasets/schools-block-funding-formulae-2021-to-2022)

- The primary:secondary finding ratio for Slough is 1:13598.
- Averaging the 151 LAs, Slough ranks 136th, means there are only 15 authorities with lower ratios.
- The national average within the data set is a ratio of 1:12974. The ratios for neighbouring local authorities are:

Buckinghamshire	1:11268
RBWM	1:12916
Wokingham	1:12946

3. Basis of the ratio

The ratios quoted in (2) above have been calculated for each local authority from the information they submitted to ESFA as follows:

1. The funding for primary pupils and funding for secondary pupils is split. For the factors with separate primary and secondary indicators (for example, basic entitlement and deprivation), this split is simply the amount of funding allocated through each type of indicator. For the other factors, the amount of funding allocated to each school in the local authority area is split between primary and secondary in proportion to the number of pupils in each phase at the school.
2. These amounts are aggregated to estimate the total funding for primary pupils and the total funding for secondary pupils.
3. These amounts are then divided, respectively, by the number of primary schools block-funded pupils on roll, and the number of secondary schools block-funded pupils on roll.
4. This gives per-pupil funding amounts for primary and secondary phases, and the ratio of the two is taken.

The important point to note is that the ratio is an **output** figure. It is determined as a result of decisions made about the proportions and unit values of the various factors in the local formula. Each local formula gives different weightings and unit values to the factors, and similar values for the ratio could be arrived at in different ways.

The variation and complexity is illustrated in the following examples, taken from the DfE's **2022-23** Schools Block Funding Formulae database.

Local Authority	Funding units		Ratio	Lump sum		LPA	Basic entitlement funding			
	PUF	SUF		% of total	Primary		KS3	KS4		
Slough	£4,580	£6,244	1:1.3519	3.6%	£128k	5.99%	79.9%	£3,544	£4,999	£5,633
Hillingdon	£4,856	£6,580	1:1.3038	5.0%	£140k	4.46%	78.8%	£3,834	£4,971	£5,682
Hounslow	£4,909	£6,610	1:1.3370	4.4%	£133k	6.39%	75.9%	£3,567	£5,018	£5,652
RBWM	£4,497	£5,857	1:1.2954	7.3%	£124k	6.60%	80.0%	£3,402	£4,796	£5,405
Bucks	£4,511	£5,730	1:1.2663	7.1%	£125k	5.90%	78.4%	£3,309	£4,666	£5,259

The choices made locally about the structure of education provision will also make a difference, for example an area with a high proportion of small primary schools may have a ratio that is more generous to primary schools than an area with the same population split, but fewer, larger primary schools. As a result, it is not the case that a uniform 1:1.29 ratio will be seen nationwide. Slough has an unusually high proportion of large primary schools. Claycotts School for example, is eight forms of entry, but receives a single lump sum payment through the formula. Eight one-form entry primary schools would collectively receive eight times the lump sum for the same number of pupils.

4. Future direction

Since 2013-14, the primary-secondary ratio has remained relatively stable in local authority formulae across the country at an average of around 1:1.29. In its 2017 paper on the national funding formula, the DfE proposed to reflect this average within the NFF when setting the unit values. This is a national weighting used to determine the unit values in the formula overall.

The Government's intention, as set out in the paper ***The national funding formula for schools and high needs 2023-24*** in July 2022, is to move to the implementation of a direct NFF, where funding will be allocated to schools based on a single national formula. Local authorities are required to bring their own formulae closer to the NFF from 2023-24, moving their local formula factor values at least 10% closer to the NFF where they are not already mirroring the NFF. There is currently no fixed date by which the NFF will be in place, although the expectation is that this will be by 2027-28 at the latest.

The DfE has listed all LAs according to whether or not they already mirror the NFF. In this context, mirroring means that local formula factor values are all within 2.5% of the NFF values. 78 local authorities are currently in this position, including Buckinghamshire and Hounslow. Currently, Slough is one of four authorities who mirror the NFF deprivation factors. As the move towards the full implementation of the NFF continues, the DfE will increasingly 'tighten' the requirements to bring factor values closer to NFF.

5. Forum responsibility for this item

Forum members are asked to **authorise** the Chair to respond to the SPHA letter in line with the principles set out in (3) and (4) above.

John Constable
Schools Forum Chair
July 2023

Slough Schools Forum

Proposal for consideration at Forum meeting on 14 July 2023

Agenda item 8

Future use of Slough Local School Improvement Fund

1. Background

The Slough Local School Improvement Fund was established in the 2017/18 academic year using a combination of DSG underspend and funds set aside by the Local Authority for school improvement.

Additional fund transfers were subsequently made. Funds were held by the Slough Teaching School Alliance and allocated initially by STSA in response to a bidding process, and latterly by the Slough School Improvement Board. A variety of projects ran from autumn 2017 to summer 2020, ranging in scope from £1.5k to £33k across varying numbers of schools. Further allocation of the LSIF was effectively suspended after the pandemic, pending a more strategic approach.

By agreement with Schools Forum in July 2019, an additional sum of approximately £70k held by the primary phase association SPHA has been transferred to the LSIF; this fund had originally been allocated out of DSG underspend in 2016 towards marketing and recruitment project but the majority had not been spent.

The Slough Teaching School Alliance ceased to exist when the DfE's Teaching School programme ended in July 2021. The STSA company was finally wound up in December 2022, and the company's final balance of £162k, which included the remainder of the LSIF in addition to the accumulated STSA operating surplus, was formally transferred to Langley Grammar School as a charitable donation in line with STSA's charitable objective.

Langley Grammar School was redesignated as one of the DfE's new Teaching School Hubs from September 2021, and operates programmes across Berkshire under the name of TSH Berkshire. However, the balance from the old STSA is currently held by Langley Grammar School on behalf of the Slough schools community and is therefore kept separate from TSH Berkshire funds.

2. Current balance

The current unallocated balance of the Local School Improvement Fund is of the order of £225k. A precise figure will be confirmed in the Forum meeting.

This is held by Langley Grammar School on behalf of the Slough community of schools.

3. Proposed future use

Following discussions in other forums, including the Slough Education Partnership Board, the proposal is that the funding be allocated to school improvement or development activities over a period of 2-3 years at the discretion of the primary and secondary phase associations.

Suggested uses of the funds include, but are not limited to:

- Running senior leader networks
- Contributing towards conferences eg speaker fees.
- CPD events or programmes not currently provided by TSH Berkshire.
- Specific projects which involve a significant number of schools working together on a defined curriculum initiative.

4. Allocation and accountability

The proposal is that the LSIF will be allocated in the following way:

- Schools Forum will approve the overall allocations on an annual basis. Allocations for the 2023/24 academic year will be approved at the September 2023 Forum meeting.
- Allocations to the primary and secondary phases will be equitable on a per-pupil basis, using the most recent pupil census figures as a baseline.
- The phase associations SPHA and SASH will each agree the use of the funding allocated; recording specific decisions in meeting minutes to provide an audit trail.
- Langley Grammar School will manage the actual distribution of the funds, and will pay invoiced amounts to individual schools or to third parties as required.
- Any funding allocated but not used within the academic year will be transferred back to the LSIF.
- Reports on the allocation of the LSIF will be provided regularly (and at least annually) to Slough Schools Forum.

The intention is that the LSIF will be allocated over a period of 2-3 years. This means that a significant sum will be unused for at least a year. Subject to Forum approval, it is proposed that Langley Grammar School invests unallocated funds on an annual basis, following the principles set out in its Academy Trust investment policy.

5. Future extension of the fund

The LSIF currently has a fixed level of funding with no determined future sources of additional income. As such, the fund is expected to be exhausted within 2-3 years.

Future models for the possible extension of the LSIF could include transfer from LA or other funds, de-delegation from DSG Schools Block, DSG top-slice or use of 'headroom', or agreed contributions from individual school budgets.

Any such extension to the LSIF model would involve discussion with the phase associations and the Local Authority and would be subject to Schools Forum approval.

6. Forum responsibility for this item

Forum members are asked to **approve** these arrangements for the allocation and monitoring of the Local School Improvement Fund.

John Constable
Schools Forum Chair
July 2023

School	Type of school	Name and role	Elected/appointed by	Term of office ends
ACADEMIES (11 members)				
Special schools/PRUs (2 members)				
Arbour Vale School (<i>OHCA</i> T)	Special School	Neil Sykes (Principal)	Academies	31 December 2023
Haybrook College Trust	PRU	Jamie Rockman (CEO)	Academies	31 December 2023
Primary academies (4 members)				
Phoenix Infants Academy (<i>Baylis Court Trust MAT</i>)	Academy	Jon Reekie (Governor)	Academies	31 December 2022
Ryvers School	Academy	Valerie Haffrey (School Business Manager)	Academies	31 August 2023
Marish Primary School (<i>Marish & Willow Trust</i>)	Academy	Gill Denham (Headteacher)	Academies	31 December 2023
Vacancy	Academy	Vacancy	Academies	
Secondary academies (5 members)				
Herschel Grammar School (<i>Schelwood Trust</i>)	Academy	Jo Rockall (Headteacher)	Academies	31 August 2023
Langley Grammar School	Academy	John Constable (Headteacher)	Academies	31 August 2023
Slough & Eton CofE School (<i>SEBMAT</i>)	Academy	Peter Collins (Headteacher)	Academies	31 December 2023
Upton Court Grammar School (<i>Pioneer Education Trust</i>)	Academy	Eddie Neighbour (CEO, Pioneer Education Trust)	Academies	31 March 2023
Vacancy	Academy	Vacancy	Academies	TBC
MAINTAINED SCHOOLS (4 members)				
Primary maintained (3 members)				
Holy Family Primary School	Voluntary Aided	Maggie Waller (Governor)	Maintained schools	31 August 2023
Penn Wood School	Community	Carol Pearce (Governor)	Maintained schools	31 August 2023
Wexham Court Primary School	Community	Navroop Mehat (Headteacher)	Maintained schools	31 August 2023
Secondary maintained (1 member)				
St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School	Voluntary Aided	Angela Mellish (SBM)	Maintained schools	31 August 2023
MAINTAINED NURSERIES (1 member)				
Chalvey Nursery School	Nursery	Emma Lister (H/T)	Maintained Nursery HTs	31 August 2023
NON-SCHOOL MEMBERS (2 members)				
16-19 Provider (1 member)				
Windsor Forest Colleges Group	16-19 Provider	Vacancy	16-19 Providers	TBC
PVI Provider (1 member)				
Always Growing Ltd.	PVI Provider	Ben Bausor	Local Authority	31 st August 2023
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP				16 members

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SLOUGH SCHOOLS FORUM

PROPOSED FORWARD AGENDA PLAN 2023/24

This version 10/07/23

Substantive Agenda items

Meeting 1 – Thursday 28 September 2023		
Item	Description	Notes
1	DSG Monitoring Report 2022/23	Q4/final outturn for 2022/23 – Forum to note
2	DSG Monitoring Report 2023/24	Q1 report - Forum to note
3	DSG Management Plan update	To include update on DfE ‘Safety valve’ programme
4	Growth Fund - outturn from 2022/23	LA confirms outturn from 2022/23 and any consequent update to the allocations for 2023/24
5	Confirmation of workplan for year	To include confirmation of process for Schools Block 2024/25 consultation.
6	Task Groups	Confirmation of role and membership of task groups
Meeting 2 – Thursday 9 November 2023		
Item	Description	Notes
1	DSG Monitoring Report 2023/24	Q2 report - Forum to note
2	DSG Management Plan update	To include update on DfE ‘Safety valve’ programme
3	Provisional DSG settlement 2024/25	Forum to note position and make provisional recommendation on any headroom allocation.
4	Growth Fund report	LA reviews Growth Fund position and confirms 2024-25 ‘top slice’ from Schools Block. Forum agrees allocation criteria.
5	DSG Block transfer proposals 2024/25	Forum to consider and make provisional decision
Meeting 3 – Thursday 11 January 2024		
Item	Description	Notes
1	Resource Provision and AP place commissioning	LA to confirm places commissioned in academies for 2023/24
2	DSG Schools Block 2023-24 – confirmed settlement	Forum notes final DSG settlement, recommends local formula to LA, confirms decisions on block transfer requests
3	Early Years block 2024/25	LA confirms funding arrangements for 2024/25
Meeting 4 – Thursday 14 March 2024		
Item	Description	Notes
1	DSG Monitoring Report 2023/24	Q3 report – Forum to note
2	DSG Management Plan update	To include update on DfE ‘Safety valve’ programme
3	Schools Block – confirmation of individual schools’ budgets 2024/25	LA confirmation of individual budgets for 2024/25 following APT submission and any subsequent adjustments
4	DSG HNB centrally retained 2024/25	LA confirms allocation of HNB centrally retained funding.
5	DSG EY centrally retained 2024/25	LA confirms allocation of EY centrally retained funding
6	Central School Services Budget 2024/25	Forum approves CSSB budget allocations for 2024/25
Meeting 5 – Thursday 20 June 2024		
Item	Description	Notes
1	DSG Monitoring Report 2023/24	Q4 report and outturn – Forum to note
2	DSG Management Plan update	To include update on DfE ‘Safety valve’ programme
3	Growth Fund - outturn from 2023/24 financial year	LA confirms outturn from 2023/24 and any consequent update to the allocations for 2024/25
4	Scheme for financing schools	Approval of revised scheme by maintained school reps following consultation.
5	Annual membership review	

Standing items for all meetings		
Item	Description	Notes
Chair	Apologies/AOB/declaration of interests	
Chair	Minutes of previous meeting	
Chair	Matters arising including rolling action log	
Chair	Forum membership update	As required
LA	Update on national/local funding issues	Verbal notification of any updates
LA	Academies update	Notification of any changes to school status
Chair	Forward agenda planning	Sets out proposed agenda for the remainder of the year
Chair	Key decisions log	Records key Forum decisions over running 2-yr period

Slough Schools Forum – Key Decisions Log AY 2021/22 & 2022/23

Issue and decision	Forum date	Agenda item	Minute ref
School Forum membership update	09/12/21	4	866
Gill Denham confirmed as academies member			
Chair to write to Coral Snowden and Peter Collins to ask if they wish to continue in post from January 2022			
DSG 2021/22 Monitoring report	09/12/21	6	868
Forum NOTED the current DSG position as set out in the monitoring report			
DSG funding update 2022/23	09/12/21	7	869
Forum NOTED the provisional DSG allocation for 2022/23 as set out in the report			
Schools Block 2022/23	09/12/21	9	871
LA to provide scenario modelling with and without requested 0.5% DSG top slice, to inform decision on block transfer in January meeting			
Early Years update	09/12/21	10	872
Forum NOTED the verbal report on EY funding			
Scheme for Financing Schools	09/12/21	11	873
Changes to the Scheme for Financing Schools, required in relation to the UK leaving the European Union, APPROVED by maintained school members, subject to confirmation from maintained secondary member (absent from meeting)			
Schools Forum membership update	19/01/22	5	879
Peter Collins confirmed as academies member for two years until January 2024			
Coral Snowden's term extended until July 2022			
Nominations to be sought for secondary academy member vacancy			
DSG 2021/22 monitoring report	19/01/22	7	880
Forum NOTED current 2021/22 DSG position			
DSG Management Plan update	19/01/22	8	881
Forum NOTED the verbal update from Johnny Kyriacou on the DSG management plan			
SEND Banding	19/01/22	9	882
Forum NOTED the verbal update from Chelsea Barnes on changes to the SEND banding matrix			
Growth Fund update	19/01/22	10	883
Forum APPROVED the Growth Fund criteria for 2022/23			
Forum NOTED the forecast position for the three years 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24			
Schools Block 2022/23	19/01/22	11	883
Forum APPROVED the transfer of £100k from Schools Block to the CSSB			
Forum APPROVED the transfer of the balancing 0.44% figure (£676k) to the High Needs block transfer.			
Report to brought to March Forum meeting describing in detail the difference that this funding has made and how the funds transferred are being allocated.			
Early Years funding 2022/23	19/01/22	12	884
Forum members endorsed the EY Task Group recommendation and APPROVED Option 1 from the 2022/23 funding consultation			
AOB – School Improvement funding	19/01/22	16	888
Discussion to be arranged between LA officers and the chairs of SPHA and SASH to develop proposals for school improvement funding to take to the School Improvement Board and bring back to Forum.			
DSG monitoring report 2021/22	10/03/22	7	894
Forum NOTED the latest DSG position.			

DSG Schools Block 2022-23	10/03/22	8	895
Kamaljit Kaur confirmed she would follow up NNDR payment mechanism and issue clarification for all schools.			
CSSB budget 2022-23	10/03/22	9	896
Forum APPROVED transfer of £180,815 from High Needs block to the CSSB for 2022-23			
Forum AGREED allocation within the CSSB as proposed by the local authority.			
EY centrally retained budget 2022-23	10/03/22	10	897
Forum AGREED the use of the central retained funding as proposed by the local authority.			
DSG Management plan update	10/03/22	11	898
Forum NOTED the Cabinet report on current status of DSG Management Plan and accompanying verbal update			
Written or verbal update to be given at next meeting			
Task group update	10/03/22	12	899
Work of Task groups (Schools Block, High Needs and EY)			
Forward agenda and Key decisions log	10/03/22	14	901
Key decisions log to be updated for May meeting (Chair)			
Forum membership	05/07/22	5	906
Forum NOTED the adjustments to members' terms of office to better align with the academic terms.			
Chair agreed to seek nominations to fill primary and secondary vacancies in September			
Update on national/local funding issues	05/07/22	6	907
Chair agreed to collate and return Forum response to DfE consultation on national funding formula.			
High Needs Budget 2022/23	05/07/22	10	911
Forum NOTED the allocation of centrally retained funding			
Scheme for financing schools	05/07/22	14	912
Maintained Forum members AGREED the proposed minor change to the current Scheme raising the tender threshold from £10k to £25k			
DSG 2022/23 Monitoring report	10/11/22	7	923
Forum NOTED the current DSG position as set out in the monitoring report			
DSG Management Plan update	10/11/22	8	924
Forum NOTED the verbal update from Johnny Kyriacou on the DSG management plan and the application to the DfE Safety Valve programme			
Schools Block 2023/24	10/11/22	10	926
Forum APPROVED the transfer of £100k from Schools Block to the CSSB.			
Forum APPROVED the transfer of the balancing figure (0.5% less £100k) to the High Needs block, subject to confirmation in January 2023 following final DSG settlement.			
Forum ENDORSED the LA recommendation that DSG headroom be allocated through the basic entitlement factor			
Resource provision and AP place commissioning	13/01/23	7	937
Forum NOTED the number of resource and alternative provision places commissioned by the LA in academies for September 2023.			
Growth Fund 2023/24	13/01/23	8	938
Forum NOTED the proposed 2023/24 Schools Block top slice of £565k to support the Growth Fund.			
DSG Management Plan and Safety Valve programme	13/01/23	9	939
Forum NOTED the verbal update from Johnny Kyriacou on the DSG management plan and the application to the DfE Safety Valve programme			
DSG settlement 2023/24	13/01/23	10	940
Forum CONFIRMED the overall 0.5% transfer from Schools Block to the CSSB (£100k) and HNB (0.5% less £100k) as provisionally approved in November 2022.			
Forum ENDORSED the LA's proposals for the overall 2023/24 DSG allocation.			
Forum NOTED the LA's continued commitment to allocate DSG headroom through the basic entitlement factor.			

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